

Mr. Speaker, bring us into this new economic prosperity.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today Senator TIM HUTCHINSON and I introduced the Dollars to the Classroom Act, to benefit schoolchildren and teachers all across this country in our public schools by directing that Federal funding for elementary and secondary education goes directly to classrooms and to teachers where the learning process actually takes place, by restricting how much money can be spent on bureaucracy.

By requiring that 95 cents of every Federal dollar gets into the classroom, the children and teachers of this Nation will see an additional \$870 million out of existing appropriations. That is \$10,000 per school, translating into \$450 for every single classroom in America.

I have with me a check that the Senate and House Members signed earlier today in the amount of \$870 million. We presented this directly to the children.

My colleagues have an opportunity to help bring needed change. Join me and the 127 cosponsors in sponsoring and introducing the Dollars to the Classroom Act today.

TOM LEYDEN, TEXAS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring special attention to an outstanding individual who is making a real difference in the lives of children in my district. He is Principal Tom Leyden of the Plano Independent School District in Plano, Texas.

Tom Leyden was recently named the Texas principal of the year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. This honor qualifies Mr. Leyden for eligibility as the National Principal of the Year, which will be announced in October.

Tom Leyden is a shining reminder of what a difference our local officials can make in the lives of our children. I am proud to represent Tom Leyden, and I plan to do everything I can to make sure we help all the Tom Leydens of America by keeping the Federal Government out of their way and putting education back in the hands of local principals, parents, and teachers.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY BILL

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for too long, our educational system has been handcuffed by the misguided ideas of Federal bureaucrats. For too long our children have been used as pawns in this political game.

The time for that to end is now. It is time for us to stop the partisanship, to stop the bickering, and roll up our sleeves and get to work. We cannot, as a Nation, allow our children to become adults without the tools to succeed. The key to unlocking the powers of first-rate education is the freedom to make choices, giving parents the power to choose their children's education.

Let us pass the Education Flexibility bill, which was announced just moments ago by the chairman of the committee. It will be on the floor this week. Let us pass the bill to allow the States to move past bureaucratic rules that actually inhibit success and bring new and innovative solutions to their classrooms.

This bill will expand education flexibility to all 50 States. It will empower every school district to move past the bureaucracy and do what they believe is best to help their students learn. Let us return education decision-making to those who know what is best for America's students. We will find them in each student's community, not in Washington.

SUPPORT DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to join the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) at a press conference for the Dollars to the Classroom Act. And also present were students from around the country and teachers and administrators speaking in support of the bill.

Unfortunately, as the system is set up now, as little as 65 cents on the dollar makes it to the classroom. That is wrong. Many children are being short-changed. Congress must downsize bureaucracy to ensure students get the best possible education.

What the Dollars to the Classroom Act would do is to mandate that at least 95 percent of Federal education dollars end up where it is needed most. Teachers, and most importantly our children, will be direct beneficiaries of the spending, and not the bureaucrats. And under this legislation each school would receive an increase of \$10,000.

Cole Allen is an 8th grader. He is from Pennsylvania. He spoke at today's conference about the need for more money in the classroom. He said his geography book is titled "World Geography Today," but it should be called "World Geography 13 Years Ago."

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Mr. Speaker, we need the money in the schools for the books.

HONORING EMILY GREGOR OF THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

(Mr. Regula asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues know of my strong support for trails throughout this beautiful Nation. No trail is more dear to my heart though than the Buckeye Trail in the great State of Ohio. Today I would like to pay tribute to Emily Gregor, an icon of the Buckeye Trail. Emily Gregor's devotion to the preservation of the trail as a long-time member of the Buckeye Trail Association spans the entire 40 years of its existence. She has served as its historian and legislative coordinator and is its president for 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I often tell people that the greatest legacy we can leave is not what we put in our will, but what we put in our communities. On the 40th anniversary of the Buckeye Trail Association, I today would like to commend Emily Gregor for the legacy she has given and continues to give to the people of Ohio through the Buckeye Trail. Her tireless commitment to the trail will be cherished for generations to come as they explore the wonders of nature in the great State of Ohio.

OUR SERVICEMEN HAVE OUR TOTAL, UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, there is a 20-year-old airman out there who is working incredible hours, 7 days a week, all for a cause that he trusts is just.

He puts his faith in his government, in officers above him and in the people of the United States that he will only be put in harm's way for noble and worthy reasons.

That 20-year-old is stationed in Aviano, Italy, and elsewhere across the globe. He does not have time to read the New York Times or to watch CNN to see how the war is going because he is too busy doing his job, making sure that the planes being flown in actual combat missions are as safe and effective as humanly possible. He is unaware of the debates going on in Congress about the wisdom of our policy in the Balkans. He cares little for politics, but he does expect his political leaders to put one concern above all others, do whatever it takes to see that our mission is successful.

We are only Americans now, and that 20-year-old airman and all of his fellow